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Australia & New Zealand

Community as Partner

Theory and Practice in Nursing

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AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Community as Partner

THEORY AND PRACTICE IN NURSING

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Contents

Preface.....	xiii
Contributors	xv
Acknowledgements	xvii
PART 1	THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF WORKING WITH COMMUNITY AS PARTNER
Chapter 1	Primary Health Care
	<i>Karen Francis, Ysanne Chapman, Karen Hoare and Jane Mills</i>
	Introduction.....4
	Globalisation.....4
	Factors Directly Affecting Health.....6
	Primary Health Care.....13
	Alma-Ata14
	Ottawa Charter16
	Where Are We Today?.....24
	Web Resources25
	References26
Chapter 2	Epidemiology, Demography and Community Health
	<i>Ken Sellick</i>
	Introduction.....30
	Levels of Prevention in Community Health Practice.....31
	Descriptive Measures of Health.....32
	Analytic Measures of Health37
	Criteria for Determining Causation.....42
	Sources of Community Health Data43
	Screening for Health Conditions.....45
	Epidemiological Approaches to Community Health Research48
	Summary.....51
	Web Resources52
	References53
	Further Readings53
Chapter 3	The Australian Health Care System
	<i>Glen Doolan, Jane Mills and Karen Francis</i>
	Introduction55
	The Health and Social Care System55
	The Australian Disability Strategy.....59
	Primary Health Care Services.....60
	Health Care Facilities61

	Health Status of Australians.....	64
	Critique of the Australian Health Care System.....	65
	Summary.....	66
	Web Resources.....	66
	References.....	67
Chapter 4	The New Zealand Health Care System	69
	<i>Karen Hoare</i>	
	Introduction.....	70
	The Health and Disability System.....	70
	Structure of the New Zealand Health and Disability Sector.....	72
	Primary Health Organisations.....	74
	Mental Health Strategy.....	77
	The New Zealand Disability Strategy.....	77
	Complementary and Alternative Medicine.....	77
	PHARMAC.....	78
	The Health Status of New Zealanders.....	79
	Critique of the Health System.....	79
	Summary.....	80
	Web Resources.....	81
	References.....	81
Chapter 5	Ethics and Advocacy in Community Health Nursing	83
	<i>Ysanne Chapman, Karen Francis and Karen Hoare</i>	
	Introduction.....	84
	What is Ethics?.....	84
	Essential Principles in Health Care Ethics.....	87
	Applying the Principles to the Code of Ethics for Nurses in Australia.....	91
	Applying the Principles of the Code of Ethics for Nurses in New Zealand.....	92
	Ethical Dilemmas in Community Health.....	93
	Summary.....	95
	References.....	96
Chapter 6	Building Healthy and Healing Communities	97
	<i>Ysanne Chapman, Karen Francis and Karen Hoare</i>	
	Introduction.....	98
	Applying Social Ecology to Community Health.....	98
	Perspectives on Community Health Partnerships.....	99
	Community Participation and Healing.....	101
	Healing in the Community.....	103
	Developing Right-Relationships.....	104
	Supporting Communities to Make Change.....	105
	Participatory Research.....	107
	Research Projects Using a Social Ecological Framework.....	109
	Summary.....	110
	References.....	110
Chapter 7	Culturally Competent Partnerships with Communities	113
	<i>Denise Wilson and Julie Grant</i>	
	Introduction.....	114
	Cultural Safety.....	115

	Cultural Competence.....	115
	Diversity, Ethnicity and Culture	117
	Culture, Health, Illness and Nursing	117
	Cultural Health Care Systems	119
	Decision Making.....	121
	Cultural Awareness Exercises	122
	Adapting Nursing Skills to Become Culturally Competent	123
	Summary.....	124
	Web Resources	124
	References	124
Chapter 8	Health Policy for Healthy Communities and Cities	128
	<i>Karen Francis, Ysanne Chapman, Karen Hoare and Jane Mills</i>	
	Introduction.....	129
	World Conferences on Health Promotion and Healthy Public Policy.....	129
	Health Promotion	131
	Healthy Public Policy.....	132
	Advocacy.....	133
	Healthy Communities and Cities	134
	The Social Determinants of Health.....	140
	Opportunities for Community Nursing.....	143
	Summary.....	144
	Web Resources	144
	References	145
PART 2	THE PROCESS OF COMMUNITY AS PARTNER	149
Chapter 9	Models to Guide Practice	154
	<i>Jane Mills and Karen Francis</i>	
	Introduction.....	155
	Models of Nursing.....	155
	Models of Health Promotion and Community Partnership.....	157
	Summary.....	163
	Web Resources	164
	References	164
Chapter 10	Community Assessment	166
	<i>Jane Mills</i>	
	Introduction.....	167
	Community Assessment.....	167
	The Learning about the Community on Foot Survey	169
	Battye's Model of Environmental Scanning	174
	Community Assessment: The Campsie Well Women's Clinic	179
	Summary.....	181
	Web Resources	182
	References	182

Chapter 11	Analysing Data Collected During a Community Assessment	184
	<i>Jane Mills</i>	
	Introduction.....	185
	Undertaking a Community Analysis.....	185
	Quantitative Data Analysis	185
	Qualitative Data Analysis.....	188
	Community Analysis: Campsie Well Women's Clinic	189
	Reporting on Community Assessments and Data Analysis	205
	Constructing an Analytical Matrix: Community as Partner and the Environmental Scan	206
	Summary.....	208
	Web Resources	209
	References	209
Chapter 12	Planning a Community Health Program	210
	<i>Jane Mills</i>	
	Introduction.....	211
	Change Theory.....	211
	Planning for Community Health Programs	212
	Components of a Community Health Action Plan	213
	Planning: Campsie Well Women's Clinic	216
	Partnerships between People Concerned with Primary Health Care	218
	Recording the Community Health Program Plan in a Concise and Retrievable Form	219
	Assessing the Resources Needed to Accomplish the Plan.....	219
	Summary.....	220
	References	220
	Further Readings	221
Chapter 13	Putting a Community Health Program into Action	222
	<i>Jane Mills</i>	
	Introduction.....	223
	Transition to Action.....	223
	Turning the Plan into Action: Campsie Well Women's Clinic	224
	Community Participation: Working with Health Professionals	224
	Sustainability.....	226
	Summary.....	227
	References	228
Chapter 14	Evaluating a Community Health Program	229
	<i>Jane Mills</i>	
	Introduction.....	230
	Types of Evaluation.....	230
	Evaluation Strategies.....	233
	Evaluation Strategy: Campsie Well Women's Clinic	233
	Methods of Data Collection and Generation	235
	Evaluation Strategy: Campsie Well Women's Clinic	238
	Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analyses	239
	Summary.....	240
	References	241

PART 3	STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH PROMOTION	243
Chapter 15	Promoting Health in Children	245
	<i>Karen Hoare and Jane Mills</i>	
	Introduction.....	246
	Early Childhood	247
	School-Age Childhood.....	252
	Adolescent Health Promotion Programs.....	255
	Summary.....	258
	Web Resources	259
	References	260
	Further Readings	262
Chapter 16	Promoting Healthy Partnerships in the Workplace	263
	<i>Karen Francis, Ysanne Chapman and Karen Hoare</i>	
	Introduction.....	264
	The Changing Workplace	264
	Health Promoting Partnerships in Workplaces	265
	The Health Promoting Workplace	267
	Occupational Health and Safety.....	268
	Health Promotion Activities in the Workplace	270
	Planning a Health Promotion Program	273
	Using Stages of Change in Health Promotion Programs	274
	Program Implementation	275
	Program Evaluation	277
	Tips for Maintaining a Health Promotion Program	277
	Case Management in the Workplace	278
	Summary.....	278
	Web Resources	279
	References	279
Chapter 17	Promoting Healthy Partnerships with Older People	282
	<i>Karen Francis, Jane Mills, Ysanne Chapman and Karen Hoare</i>	
	Introduction.....	283
	Health Status.....	283
	Aged Care Planning	284
	Access to Health Care.....	286
	Safety in the Community and Home.....	286
	Mental Health and Mental Wellness	291
	Health Promotion for Older People	292
	Promoting Wellness in Older People	293
	Summary.....	294
	Web Resources	295
	References	295
Chapter 18	Promoting Healthy Partnerships with People with Chronic Conditions	297
	<i>Karen Francis, Ysanne Chapman and Karen Hoare</i>	
	Introduction.....	298
	Characteristics of Chronic Health Conditions	298
	Health Perception, Chronic Health Conditions and Self-Management.....	301
	Implementation of Health Promotion Strategies.....	302

	Research Culture in Community Nursing	305
	Summary.....	307
	Web Resources	307
	References	308
Chapter 19	Promoting Healthy Partnerships with Indigenous Communities of Australia and New Zealand	311
	<i>Denise Wilson and Julie Grant</i>	
	Introduction.....	312
	Indigenous Peoples	312
	Indigenous Health Status.....	313
	Determinants of Indigenous Health	316
	Working with Indigenous Communities.....	319
	Promoting Health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	321
	Community Nursing in Australian Indigenous Communities	324
	Partnerships with Indigenous Australian Communities	326
	Promoting Health in Māori Communities.....	327
	Strategies for Working Effectively with Indigenous Communities.....	330
	Summary.....	332
	Web Resources	333
	References	334
	Further Reading	336
Chapter 20	Mental Health Promotion	337
	<i>Anthony J O'Brien</i>	
	Introduction.....	338
	Mental Health	338
	Mental Health Promotion.....	340
	Mental Health Promotion and Prevention.....	341
	Individual and Social Factors Associated with Mental Health.....	342
	Mental Health Promotion and Mental Illness.....	345
	Mental Health Promotion Policy	346
	Opportunities for Community Nurses.....	348
	Summary.....	349
	Web Resources	350
	References	351
Chapter 21	Promoting Healthy Partnerships with Refugees and Immigrants	353
	<i>Karen Hoare, Jane Mills, El Mann and Julie Grant</i>	
	Introduction.....	354
	Migrants and Refugees	354
	Promoting Health in Migrant and Refugee Communities	360
	Community Nurses and Refugees Health Promotion Programs.....	365
	Summary.....	367
	Web Resources	367
	References	368
Chapter 22	Promoting Healthy Partnerships with Rural Populations	371
	<i>Karen Francis and Ysanne Chapman</i>	
	Introduction.....	372

Rurality	372
Rural Nursing Theory	373
Building Partnerships in Rural Communities.....	376
Summary.....	381
Web Resources	382
References	382
Appendix Key Health Policies	385
Index	399

Preface

Community as Partner: Theory and Practice in Nursing is well recognised throughout the nursing world as a soundly constructed textbook for undergraduate nursing students and clinicians alike. In particular, the approach taken in this text facilitates working in partnership with communities by providing a framework for community nurses planning to action a health promotion program or activity.

The focus of health care in Australia and New Zealand is changing to account for an increased policy emphasis on the prevention of illness and sustaining wellness in the population overall. Governments in both countries have identified national priorities for health care that parallel each other and underpin the way this book is arranged. Students guided by this text will be able to make the connection between various social and political influences and clinical practice. In addition, they will be able to use this information in designing, actioning and evaluating appropriate and effective health education and promotion strategies for communities where they practice.

The adaptation of *Community as Partner* is based on the fourth US edition. The organisation of health care in Australia and New Zealand, however, has necessitated some changes to the content and structure of the chapters. Exemplars from Australia and New Zealand provide insights into the health priorities of both countries and these are supported by local statistics, references and websites.

Part I provides a broad overview of the theory and policy relating to primary health care from both an international and national perspective for both Australia and New Zealand. Types of service provision are outlined and the role of the community nurse is discussed in relation to these areas.

Part II provides a practical guide to the community nursing processes involved in working with individuals and communities to promote health. The part commences with a chapter addressing models to guide practice and follows with chapters on community assessment, and analysis of assessment data; and concludes with chapters on planning, actioning and evaluating community health programs and activities. The community-as-partner model, as conceived by Judith Anderson, is modified for the Australian and New Zealand environment to provide a stronger emphasis on working with local communities to address their identified health care issues and problems. To achieve this we draw upon Kristine Battye's model of environmental scanning while retaining Anderson's construct of the community wheel.

Part III examines identified vulnerable groups that community nurses commonly work with in Australian and New Zealand society. The key areas covered in this part include young children and schools, workplace groups, older adults, rural populations, people living with a chronic condition, refugees and immigrants, and indigenous communities. A separate chapter on mental health promotion is also provided. The text discriminates toward positive partnerships between these communities and the community nurse, by highlighting successful initiatives underpinned by collaborative relationships.

There are a number of different titles given to nurses working in the community. These may include community nurse, community health nurse, public health nurse, family and child health nurse, and maternal and child health nurse. The term community nursing is used in this book to describe the work of nurses engaged in activities to promote wellbeing with individuals, groups and populations in a community practice context and includes all of the variations listed above.

In the process of adapting *Community as Partner* we have searched the literature and spoken to many community nurses to find examples of health promotion programs and activities that illustrate the theoretical messages the text conveys. There are many excellent primary health care programs and activities in Australia and New Zealand, and we would like to acknowledge and thank all those people involved in the inspirational work we have included in this text.

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